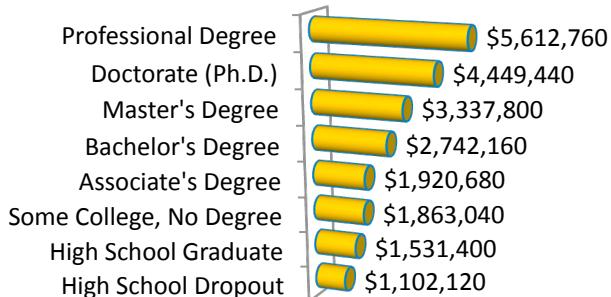


A College Education Opens Doors to a Better Job and Many Other Benefits

Why Should You Go To College?

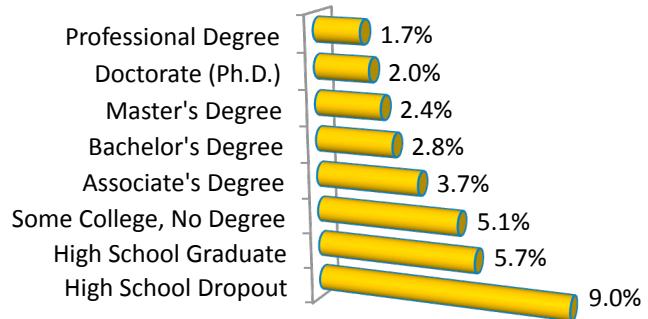
College graduates earn more money and get better jobs

Average Lifetime Earnings



Unemployment rates are lower for college graduates

Unemployment Rates



Stay in school. High school *graduates* earn \$430,000 more over their lifetimes than high school *dropouts*.

You can earn even more by going to college.

- An Associate's degree is worth \$390,000 more than a high school diploma.
- A Bachelor's degree is worth \$1.2 million more than a high school diploma.
- A Doctorate (Ph.D.) is worth \$1.7 million more than a Bachelor's degree.
- A Professional (law or medical) degree is worth \$2.9 million more than a Bachelor's degree.

You can double your income by graduating from college. All of the highest paying jobs require a college degree. Jobs for college graduates also include better benefits, such as health insurance and retirement plans.

In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite.

– President Barack Obama

College graduates have half the unemployment rates of high school graduates and better job security. It is also easier to find a job because there are many more jobs available for college graduates than high school graduates.

College will help you help your family

- You will be able to support your family with a larger salary.
- You will pave the way for your brothers and sisters and other relatives to go to college.
- You will be able to help your children with their homework and give them a better life. As a result, they will be more likely to attend college.

College is the pathway to success and a better life

- College opens doors to opportunity and expands your horizons. You will experience new points of view.
- Graduating from college will be a source of pride because it is a great accomplishment.
- You get to follow your dreams and determine your future!

College is a lot of fun!

- You get to do amazing things and to train for a job you will enjoy. There are many activities on college campuses.
- You will meet smart and interesting people and make lifelong friends.
- At college, it is cool to be smart. You will learn how to think and express yourself more clearly and solve important problems. You will become more confident.

A Who's Who of Famous College Graduates

- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (Basketball Player) – UCLA
- Kofi Annan (Secretary-General of the United Nations) – Macalester College, MIT Sloan School of Management
- Angela Bassett (Actress) – Yale College
- Barry Bonds (Baseball Player) – Arizona State University
- Bill Clinton (US President) – Georgetown University, Oxford, Yale Law School
- Hillary Clinton (US Secretary of State) – Wellesley College, Yale Law School
- Natalie Cole (Singer) – Univ. of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Bill Cosby (Comedian) – Temple University
- Geena Davis (Actress) – Boston University
- David Duchovny (Actor) – Princeton University
- Gloria Estefan (Singer) – University of Miami
- Patrick A. Ewing (Basketball Player) – Georgetown Univ.
- Jodie Foster (Actress) – Yale University
- Louis Gossett, Jr. (Actor) – New York University
- Matt Groening (Cartoonist "The Simpsons") – Evergreen State College
- Bryant Gumbel (TV Journalist) – Bates College
- Hugh Hefner (Magazine Publisher) – UIUC
- Rev. Jesse Jackson (Civil Rights Activist) – North Carolina A&T
- Magic Johnson (Basketball Player) – Michigan State Univ.
- James Earl Jones (Actor) – University of Michigan
- Tommy Lee Jones (Actor) – Harvard College
- Michael Jordan (Basketball Player) – UNC Chapel Hill
- John F. Kennedy (US President) – Harvard College
- Martin Luther King Jr. (Civil Rights Activist) – Morehouse College, Crozer Theological Seminary, Boston University
- Lisa Kudrow (Actress) – Vassar College
- Spike Lee (Film Director and Producer) – Morehouse College, New York University

In our democracy every young person should have an equal opportunity to obtain a higher education, regardless of his station in life or financial means.

– President John F. Kennedy

Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.

– Malcolm X

- Jay Leno (TV Host and Comedian) – Emerson College
- David Letterman (TV Host and Comedian) – Ball State Univ.
- Lucy Liu (Actress) – University of Michigan
- Eva Longoria (Model and Actress) – Texas A&M at Kingsville
- Toni Morrison (Author, Nobel Laureate) – Howard University, Cornell University
- Edwin Moses (Olympic Track & Field Medalist) – Morehouse College, Pepperdine University
- Paul Newman (Actor, Auto Racer and Entrepreneur) – Kenyon College, Yale University
- Bill Nye (Science Educator and TV Host) – Bridgewater State College
- Shaquille O'Neal (Basketball Player) – Louisiana State Univ.
- Barack Obama (US President) – Occidental College, Columbia University, Harvard Law School
- Natalie Portman (Actress) – Harvard College
- Colin Powell (Four-Star General and US Secretary of State) – City College of New York, George Washington University
- Ronald Reagan (US President) – Eureka College
- Condoleezza Rice (US Secretary of State) – University of Denver, University of Notre Dame
- Bill Richardson (Governor of New Mexico) – Tufts Univ.
- J. K. Rowling (Author) – University of Exeter
- Arnold Schwarzenegger (Governor of California, Actor) – Santa Monica College, University of Wisconsin at Superior
- Jimmy Smits (Actor) – Brooklyn College, Cornell University
- Sonia Sotomayor (US Supreme Court Justice) – Princeton University, Yale Law School
- Howard Stern (Radio Personality) – Boston University
- Julia Stiles (Actress) – Columbia University
- Clarence Thomas (US Supreme Court Justice) – College of the Holy Cross
- Denzel Washington (Actor) – Fordham University
- Sigourney Weaver (Actress) – Stanford University
- Oprah Winfrey (TV Host) – Tennessee State University

How Do You Pay for College?

Student financial aid helps you pay the college bills

College isn't as expensive as you might think. Newspaper headlines focus on the most expensive colleges for the shock value. Most students attend colleges that are much less expensive.

There's a lot of money available to help you pay for college. Student financial aid will help you bridge the gap between college costs and what you and your family can afford to pay. This includes money from the federal and state government, money from the colleges themselves, and scholarships from foundations and companies.

Five types of student financial aid

There are five main types of student financial aid to help pay for college.

- Gift aid, such as grants and scholarships, which is free money that does not need to be repaid.
- Student employment, such as part-time work-study jobs, which is money that you earn as you learn.
- Student loans, which is money that is repaid over several years, usually with interest.
- Education tax benefits, such as the Hope Scholarship tax credit, which is money you get by filing a federal income tax return. You can get a rebate of some of the money you paid for college costs even if you don't owe any taxes.
- Military student aid, such as ROTC and the GI Bill, where you earn money for your education in exchange for service in the United States Armed Forces.

Grants and scholarships are better than student loans because they are like getting paid to go to college and do not require repayment.

Some grants and scholarships are awarded based on financial need (the difference between the total cost of college and ability to pay) and some based on academic, artistic or athletic merit, and others based on unusual criteria, such as creating a prom costume out of duct tape, a scholarship for left-handed students or a scholarship for a student with a last name of Zolp.

Scholarships are about more than just money

The organizations that award scholarships are focused on more than just giving away money. They want to eliminate barriers to college success. Many try to build a community of their scholarship recipients. You will meet people just like yourself and make lifelong friends. You get someone to talk to, someone you can trust.

Education costs money, but then so does ignorance.

– Sir Claus Moser

How do you find scholarships?

One of the easiest ways to find scholarships is to use the <http://www.fastweb.com> web site, and it's free! It takes about half an hour to complete a personal profile of your background, such as your grades, test scores, interests, hobbies and activities. This profile is matched against a very large database of scholarships, and you get an immediate list of all the scholarships that match your profile. You will see only those scholarships for which you are qualified.

The FastWeb database is updated daily. Whenever a new scholarship is added that matches your profile, you will get an email message to tell you about it. The web site also has a lot of news, information and advice.

You can also find scholarships in books in your local public library or bookstore. Your guidance counselor might post information about scholarships outside his/her office or on the school web site. Some guidance counselors publicize scholarships in the school bulletin or distribute scholarship booklets.

Start searching for scholarships as soon as possible. There are scholarships with deadlines throughout the year, so the sooner you start searching, the more scholarships you will find. There are even scholarships for children in the grades K-8 in addition to scholarships for high school students in grades 9-12.

How do you apply for scholarships?

After you locate the scholarships, you will need to submit an application to each scholarship. Many scholarships require short essays. That may sound like a lot of work, but after you've submitted your first few scholarship applications you'll find that you can reuse many of your essays on other applications. Some will ask for a letter of recommendation from your teacher and a copy of your high school transcripts. If you become a finalist, some will conduct an in-person interview.

The scholarship sponsor reviews the applications it receives and then chooses the winners. You might get a call or email or letter to tell you that you won. Sometimes the winners are announced at an award dinner. It can be incredibly exciting.

The scholarship sponsor will hold the money until you have enrolled in college. They will then send a check to you and/or to the college to help you with your college costs.

Some scholarships are renewable, which means you get money every year you are in college. Often you will need to get good grades to keep the scholarship and send a short progress report to the sponsor once a year. You might also need to get involved in community service or other activities.

The function of the university is not simply to teach bread-winning, or to furnish teachers for the public schools or to be a centre of polite society; it is, above all, to be the organ of that fine adjustment between real life and the growing knowledge of life, an adjustment which forms the secret of civilization.

– W.E.B. DuBois
The Souls of Black Folk

If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the highest return.

– Benjamin Franklin

How do you apply for need-based aid?

Need-based grants, work-study and loans are available from the federal and state government and most colleges. To apply, submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The FAFSA is used to calculate your “expected family contribution” or EFC, a measure of your family’s annual ability to pay for college. A lower EFC makes you eligible to receive more need-based financial aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant. The difference between the college’s Cost of Attendance and the EFC is your financial need. This is the amount of money you will need to help you pay for school. Students with a zero EFC (mostly students with family income less than \$30,000) have full financial need and qualify for more financial aid.

Pitfalls: Beware of scholarship scams!

Unfortunately, there are con artists who will try to scam you by posing as scholarship providers. Here are a few tips to avoid getting taken:

- Beware of scholarships that charge any kind of an application fee, even if it is just a few dollars.
- Don't invest more than a postage stamp for information about scholarships or to apply for scholarships.
- If you have to pay money to get money it is probably a scam.
- Nobody can guarantee that you will win a scholarship.
- Don't give out your Social Security number, bank account number or credit card number to any scholarship providers.